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A
T R E A T I S E

O N

HYSTERICAL and NERVOUS
D I S O R D E R S.

By DANIEL SMITH, M. D.

Printed for CARNAN and NEWBERY, in *St. Paul's*
Church-Yard, LONDON.

Where may be had, by the same Author,

A LETTER to Dr. CADOGAN;
OBSERVATIONS on Dr. WILLIAMS'S TREATISE
on the GOUT;

And his APOLOGY to the PUBLIC for commencing
the PRACTICE of PHYSIC.

Price E I G H T E E N P E N C E,

The author living at a distance, the press has undergone no correction; the reader therefore is desired to excuse the errors thereof, particularly those which occur in the following places:

Page 7,	—	Line 10, 14, 15, 16.
— 12,	—	— 20, 22.
— 22,	—	— 7.
— 26,	—	— 6.
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82-854.

A TREATISE, &c.

HAVING, on commencing the practice of physick, resolved to confine my labors chiefly to gouty, rheumatic, and hysterical patients; and having already published my sentiments on the two former diseases; it may not now be improper to deliver my opinion also of hysterical cases; that mankind may be convinced I have directed my attention to these particular studies, and that in all my practice I would wish to act on truly scientific and medical principles.

HYSTERICAL disorders appear to have been as little understood as those of the gout; hence the unsuccessful method of treating and the difficulty of curing them. The truth of this observation is founded on the illustrious SYDENHAM's most excellent history of this disease, with which I propose to present the public, as it is translated by the learned Dr.

SHAW; together with the remarks of some other very eminent and worthy physicians who have wrote on this subject; and whose earnest endeavours to serve mankind, (tho' not altogether successful) deserve the highest encomiums: I should be ungrateful in the greatest degree not to pay this tribute to their memory, as I find myself much indebted to their fund of knowledge, for many of those valuable ideas, with which I have improved my own.

I SHALL however first give an account of the nervous system, from some of the best anatomists; which I am induced to do, as it is beyond a doubt, that the nerves are more immediately affected by hysterical disorders. The wonderful construction of this branch of the human frame is most astonishing, and will, I think, appear so to every one, who carefully attends to the following account of it; for my own part, I cannot consider it without being struck with the greatness, and goodness of that Divine Being who formed it, and who has so wisely, and beautifully distributed

distributed it through the whole of our complicated machines, in order to give action to every part of them, when called upon by the mental or sensual powers, which it invariably obeys, if the constitution be in a perfect state of health.

“ A NERVE is a round, hollow, white,
 “ long body, composed of several threads, or
 “ fibres; deriving it's origin from the brain,
 “ or spinal marrow; and distributed through-
 “ out all the parts of the body, serving (as
 “ supposed by some Physicians) for the con-
 “ veyance of a juice called animal spirits,
 “ for the performance of sensation and motion.

“ FROM every point of the cortex of the
 “ brain, there arise minute medullary fibres;
 “ which, in their progress uniting together, at
 “ length become sensible, and thus constitute
 “ the medulla of the brain, and the spine.

“ HENCE they are continued, and in their
 “ farther progress, become distinguished or se-
 “ parated by coats which are detached to them

“ from the dura and pia mater, into several
 “ distinct fasciculi, or nerves; resembling, in
 “ the position of their component fibrillæ, so
 “ many horse’s tails, wrapp’d up in a double
 “ tunic.

“ ’Tis probable that the medullary fibres
 “ of the cerebellum, rising up towards the
 “ fore parts of the medulla oblongata, do,
 “ part of them, join the nerves arising thence,
 “ but so as still to retain their different ori-
 “ gin, progress, and functions. The rest of
 “ the fibres of the cerebellum are so mix’d
 “ with those of the brain, as that there is,
 “ perhaps, no part of the whole medulla
 “ oblongata, or spinalis, where there are not
 “ found fibres of each kind; and thus, to
 “ constitute the body of each nerve, both
 “ kinds of fibres contribute; tho’ the end
 “ and effect of each be quite different.

“ The nerves thus form’d, and sent from
 “ the medulla oblongata and spinalis while
 “ within the cranium, are ten pair, tho’ very
 “ improperly so accounted, in as much as
 “ most

“ most of them do in reality consist of fe-
 “ veral distinct very large nerves. From
 “ the spinal marrow, continued without the
 “ cranium, there arise after the like manner,
 “ thirty pair, to which may be added another
 “ pair sent from the vertebræ of the neck,
 “ augmented in its progress by branches from
 “ the second and third pair, and at last joined
 “ to the eighth pair.

“ All these, while within the medulla,
 “ are pulposus; as soon as they quit it, they
 “ acquire a sheath, or case, wherewith being
 “ defended, they proceed to the dura mater,
 “ which is perforated into an open vagina,
 “ reaching as far as the foramina of the cra-
 “ nium, destin’d for the transmission of nerves;
 “ where the nine first pair, and the acces-
 “ sory pair, assuming this vagina, or case,
 “ pass safely out of the cranium.

“ THE other thirty and one pair descend
 “ through spaces between the commissures of
 “ the apophyses of the vertebræ; whence
 “ firm, hard, and well cloathed as they are,
 “ they

“ they are dispersed through all, even the
 “ smallest points of the solid parts of the body
 “ yet known,

“ THE coats, or covers of these nerves
 “ are every where invested with blood-vessels,
 “ lymphatics, and other vesicles of a very
 “ tight texture, which serve to collect,
 “ strengthen, and contract the fibrillæ; and
 “ from which many of the phænomena of the
 “ nerves, and of diseases, are accountable.

“ As soon as the last extremities of the
 “ nerves are about to enter the parts to
 “ which they belong, they again lay aside
 “ their coats, and become expanded either
 “ into a kind of thin membranula, or into
 “ a soft pulp.

“ Now, upon considering 1st, that the
 “ whole vascular medulla of the brain goes
 “ to the constituting of the fibrillæ of the
 “ nerves; nay, is wholly continued into, and
 “ ends in them,

“ 2dly, THAT upon compression, tearing,
 “ dispersion, putrefaction, &c. of the me-
 “ dulla of the brain, all the actions used to
 “ be perform’d by the nerves arising thence,
 “ are immediately abolished, even tho’ the
 “ nerves continue entire and untouch’d.

“ 3dly. THAT the Nerves themselves are
 “ every where found lax, pendulous, crooked
 “ retrograde, and oblique, yet effect motion
 “ and sensation almost instantaneously.

“ 4thly. THAT when close bound or com-
 “ press’d, tho’ in all other respects entire,
 “ they lose all their faculty in those Parts
 “ between the Legature and the extremes to
 “ which they tend, without loosing any in
 “ those parts between the Legature and the
 “ medulla of the brain, or cerebellum: it
 “ evidently appears, that the nervous fibrillæ
 “ do continually take up a humour or juice
 “ from the medulla of the brain, and transmit
 “ it by so many distinct canals to every point
 “ of the whole body; and by means hereof
 “ alone perform all their functions in sen-
 “ sation,

“ fation, muscular motion; &c. Which hu-
 “ mour is what we popularly call animal
 “ spirits, or the nervous juice.

“ NOR does there appear any probability
 “ in that opinion maintain’d by some, viz.
 “ that the nerves perform all their action
 “ by the vibration of a tense fibrilla; which
 “ is inconsistent with the nature of a soft,
 “ pulpous, flacid crooked, wavy nerve, and
 “ with that nice distinctness wherewith the
 “ objects of our senses are represented, and
 “ muscular motions performed.

“ Now, after the same manner as the ar-
 “ terial blood is perpetually carried into all
 “ the parts of the body furnish’d with those
 “ vessels; so we conceive a juice prepar’d in
 “ the cortex of the brain and cerebellum,
 “ conveyed thence every moment thro’ the
 “ nerves, to every point of the solid body.
 “ The smallness of the vessels in the cortex,
 “ as exhibited in RUYSCH’s injections, which
 “ yet are only arterious, and therefore in-
 “ credibly thicker than the last emissary de-
 “ rived

“ rived thence, shew how slender these hol-
 “ low nervous stamina must be. But the
 “ great bulk of the brain compared with the
 “ exceeding smallness of each fibrilla, shews,
 “ that their number must be great beyond
 “ the limits of all imagination.

“ AND again, the great quantity of juice
 “ constantly brought hither, and violently
 “ agitated, will occasion a constant plenitude,
 “ openness, and action of these little canals.
 “ But, as fresh juice is every moment pre-
 “ pared, and the last is continually protrud-
 “ ing the former; as soon as it has done its
 “ last office, it seems to be driven out of the
 “ last filaments into the smallest lymphatic
 “ venulæ, both about the glands and else-
 “ where; thence into the lymphatics some-
 “ what larger; and again from these to the
 “ common lymphatic vessels with the valves
 “ of veins, and at length into the veins and
 “ the heart; and thus like the other juices of
 “ the body, does it make its circuit round
 “ the body.

“ Upon the whole, if we consider the
 “ great bulk of the brain, cerebellum, me-
 “ dulla oblongata, and medulla spinalis, with
 “ regard to the bulk of the rest of the solids
 “ of the body; the great number of nerves
 “ distributed thence throughout the whole
 “ body; that the brain and carina, that is
 “ the spinal marrow, are the basis in an em-
 “ bryo, whence, according to the great Mal-
 “ pighi, the other parts are afterwards form’d;
 “ and lastly, that there is scarce any part of
 “ a body but what feels or moves; it will
 “ appear very probable, that all the solid
 “ parts of the body are wove out of nervous
 “ fibres, and consist wholly of them.

“ THE antients only allow’d of seven pair,
 “ or conjugations of nerves, proceeding from
 “ the brain; but the moderns, as before ob-
 “ served, reckon ten, which are as follows :

“ NERVES of the brain, or cerebrum. OL-
 “ factory nerves, par olfactorium, or the ol-
 “ factory pair, arises in the fore part of the
 “ brain, just below the os frontis; these being
 “ pretty

“ pretty thick near the os cribrosum, are
 “ there call’d proceffus papillares, which Dr.
 “ DRAKE takes to be a properer name in that
 “ place, than that of nerves; they appearing
 “ rather productions of the medulla oblon-
 “ gata, whence the olfactory nerves arise,
 “ than distinct nerves. As soon as they have
 “ made their way through the os cribrosum,
 “ they are distributed throughout the mem-
 “ branes of the nose. Their use is in the
 “ sensation of smelling.

“ OPTIC nerves. These pass the skull thro’
 “ two perforations in its basis, a little above
 “ the sella equina, and are thence convey’d
 “ to the tunics of the eye; whereof the retina,
 “ supposed to receive the objects of vision,
 “ is an extension of the inner or medullary
 “ part alone.

“ NERVES that move the eyes, oculorum
 “ motorii, arise from the crura of the medulla
 “ oblongata, near the annular protuberance;
 “ whence they march out between two
 “ branches of the cervical artery; and passing

“ out of the skull at an irregular oblong hole,
 “ immediately under the former, are spent
 “ on those muscles of the eyes called attollent,
 “ depriment, adducent, and obliquus infe-
 “ rior; except some small fibres spent in the
 “ muscles of the upper palpebra,

“ PATHETIC nerves arise behind the testes,
 “ and passing out of the skull at the same fora-
 “ men with the former pair, spend themselves
 “ wholly on the trochlear muscle.

“ FIFTH pair of nerves, the largest of all
 “ those coming from the brain, has its use
 “ as well as distribution more extensive; serv-
 “ ing both for sense and motion, for touch
 “ and taste. It sends branches not only to
 “ the eyes, nose, palate, tongue, teeth, and
 “ most parts of the mouth and face, but
 “ also to the breast, lower venter, præcordia,
 “ &c. by means of the intercostals, which are
 “ partly composed of branches of this nerve;
 “ arises a consent or sympathy between the
 “ whence several parts of the body.

“ It arises from the annular protuberance,
 “ near the processus cerebelli, and is at its
 “ origin very large, but before its egress
 “ from the dura mater is divided into two
 “ branches, each consisting of innumerable
 “ nervous fibres, whereof those of one branch
 “ are pretty tough and firm; the other soft
 “ and lax. A little beyond the fella, it
 “ forms a plexus call’d ganglioformis, near
 “ which each nerve is divided into an interior
 “ and posterior branch.

“ The anterior or fore branch, after a few
 “ twigs sent to the dura mater, enters the re-
 “ ceptacle on each side the fella; whence it
 “ sends off one or two twigs to the intercostal;
 “ and as soon as it emerges thence, is again
 “ subdivided into three nearly equal branches.
 “ The uppermost passing the foramen lace-
 “ rum into the orbit of the eye, is immedi-
 “ ately subdivided into three less branches;
 “ the first of which, after sending twigs to
 “ the tunica adnata, glandula lacrymalis, the
 “ muscles that draw up the nose, and the or-
 “ bicular muscles, running over the muscle
 “ which

“ which draws up the upper eye-lid, is spent
 “ on the muscles of the forehead, and the
 “ common integuments of the fore part of
 “ the head.

“ THE second branch running under the
 “ patheticks and motorii, is divided into two ;
 “ whereof the outer and smaller sends off se-
 “ veral fibrillæ into the fat that envelops the
 “ optic nerve ; and joining with others from
 “ the third pair, forms a sort of plexus on
 “ the trunk of the optic nerve ; whence
 “ fibrillæ are detach'd into the musculus de-
 “ primens, adducens, and the tunica sclerotica.
 “ The inner and bigger slip is subdivided
 “ into four twigs ; the first running over the
 “ optic nerve, enters the sclerotica, and is
 “ spent in that membrane. The second re-
 “ turning into the skull by a peculiar per-
 “ foration, pierces the dura mater, and,
 “ sometimes turning back again, passës out
 “ of the skull through one of the holes of the
 “ cribriforme, and is distributed into the in-
 “ terior membrane of the nose. The third
 “ twig is spent partly on the eye-lids and their
 “ orbicular

“ orbicular muscles; the external integument
 “ of the nose, and the muscles which draw
 “ it upwards. The fourth is distributed by
 “ several twigs into the eye-lids and orbicular
 “ muscles. The third slip of the upper
 “ branch is spent on the glandula innominata
 “ and tunica adnata;

“ THE less inferior branch, e'er it leave
 “ the skull, enters the orbit of the eye, and
 “ running along the outside of the musculus
 “ abducens, goes out again at a little perfora-
 “ tion peculiar to it; after which it divides
 “ into several fibres, some of which go to the
 “ integuments of the cheeks; the rest to the
 “ muscles that raise the upper lip. As soon
 “ as it quits the skull at the third foramen, it
 “ is subdivided into three little branches, the
 “ first of which, after some twigs bestowed on
 “ the masseter, the teguments of the face,
 “ the gums, and upper teeth, enters a pe-
 “ culiar sinus of the bone, making the lower
 “ part of the orbit, and goes out at a hole
 “ particular to it; after which it divides into
 “ several fibrillæ which go to the teguments
 “ of

“ of the face, the upper lip, the muscle that
 “ draws the lower part of the nose laterally,
 “ and the inner muscle of the nose.

“ THE second small branch running down
 “ wards behind the ducts which go from the
 “ nose to the fauces, is divided into two; the
 “ upper whereof is distributed by many twigs
 “ into the membrana pituitaria. The lower
 “ passing a peculiar hole on the hind and
 “ lateral part of the bone of the palate, is
 “ distributed into the spongy flesh that lines
 “ the palate, and the tough membrane that
 “ covers it.

“ The third little branch is spent on that
 “ part of the membrana pituitaria that lines
 “ the fauces upon the uvula and muscles there-
 “ abouts, and upon the tonsils.

“ The greater or posterior branch, after
 “ sending a few twigs to the dura mater,
 “ passes the skull through the fifth foramen;
 “ and having sent off some twigs to the
 “ buccinator, masseter, and the muscles of
 “ the

“ the lower jaw, is divided into three considerable branches.

“ THE first passes to the root of the tongue, and thence proceeding forwards, sends several branches to the maxillary glands. It sends others along the inner substance of the tongue, which end in capillaries at its extremity, and joining every where with the branches of the ninth pair, serve both the muscles and papillary glands, and contribute to the taste, as well as the motion of the tongue.

“ THE second, or middle branch, after distributing a twig into the maxillary glands, and the muscles styloglossus, and myloglossus, enters the hollow of the lower jaw, along which it runs accompanied with branches of the carotid arteries and little veins, which return to the internal jugulars; and besides sending off a twig to each tooth, with the membranes of the foresaid vessels, contributes to form a membrane which lines the whole sinus. At the

“ fourth grinder it divides into two; the less
 “ whereof runs to the joining of the jaw; the
 “ bigger passing out at a peculiar perfora-
 “ tion, is divided into several fibres, which
 “ are disposed into the muscles of the lower
 “ lip and chin.

“ THE third, or exterior branch, is spent on
 “ the parotid glands.

“ SIXTH pair of nerves, or the gustatorii,
 “ rise from the medullary tracts of the cen-
 “ trum ovale, below the annular process, and
 “ proceeding forwards, enters the same recep-
 “ tacle, or sinus of the skull, on the side of
 “ the sella, as the fifth pair does; whence
 “ sending off a twig to join those of the fifth
 “ pair, in their passage to the intercostals, it
 “ goes out of the skull at the same hole with
 “ the motorii oculorum, and ends in the ab-
 “ ducent muscles of the eye; sending withal
 “ some twigs to the tongue.

“ THE seventh pair, or auditory nerves,
 “ arising from the medullary tract of the
 “ fourth

“ fourth ventricle, and passing out of the
 “ skull through a hole of the os petro-
 “ sum, divides into two branches, or por-
 “ tions, a hard and a soft one. The hard en-
 “ tering a little sinus in the upper part of the
 “ bone that constitutes the barrel of the ear;
 “ sends off a twig which distributes itself into
 “ the dura mater, except some small twigs
 “ which go to the membrane that lines the
 “ ear, to the internal muscles that line the
 “ ear, and the fine membrane that clothes
 “ the inside of the cavity of the apophysis
 “ mamillaris. After this, the hard branch
 “ sends off two other twigs, one to the eighth
 “ pair, the other to the tympanum, whose
 “ chord it forms; whence creeping over the
 “ malleolus, it goes out of the ear, and sends
 “ a ramification to the tongue.

“ THE same hard branch, coming out of
 “ the processus mamillaris, sends some twigs
 “ to the masseter, and others to the glands
 “ about the ear; where it divides into two
 “ other ramifications; the interior bestowed
 “ on the glands, the cheek, and the upper
 “ lips,

lips, the rest on the lower palpebra, and
 “ the external part of the face. The exterior
 “ ramification, bestowing some fibrillæ on
 “ the glands, out of which it issues, divides
 “ into two; the upper distributed into the
 “ quadratus and outer parts of the under lip;
 “ the lower spent on the integuments of the
 “ fore and lateral part of the neck, lower jaw,
 “ and the mastoidal muscle.

“ THE soft and larger portion of this pair
 “ divides into three ramifications, the upper
 “ whereof passes a small foramen into the
 “ concha, where expanding, it forms a fine
 “ membrane, which lines its inner surface.
 “ The second and third ramifications are also
 “ spent on the inner parts of the concha and
 “ semicircular ducts, which they furnish with
 “ membranes, the immediate organs of hear-
 “ ing.

“ EIGHTH pair of nerves, or the par va-
 “ gum, springs from the medulla oblongata,
 “ a little above the olivaria corpora, and
 “ passes out of the skull through the same
 “ perforations

“ perforations with the lateral sinuses of the
 “ dura mater.

“ THIS, in its progress, is join'd by the
 “ par accessorium, and a little further by a
 “ twig of the hard part of the seventh pair,
 “ and at the second vertebra of the neck by
 “ the nerves that issue from the cervical mar-
 “ row; and detaches several twigs to the
 “ muscles of the larynx, gula, neck, &c.
 “ particularly the ganglioform plexus, form'd
 “ by its union with a branch of the inter-
 “ costal. Hence descending to the thorax,
 “ it makes another plexus under the clavicle,
 “ whence arises the recurrent nerve on the
 “ right side, as on the left it has its rise from
 “ the trunk of the nerve itself. The right
 “ recurrent is reflected at the axillary artery,
 “ the left at the descending branch of the
 “ aorta; each running aside the trachea, im-
 “ part some twigs to it; and terminate in
 “ the muscles of the larynx. Their use is in
 “ the formation and modulation of the voice.

“ AGAINST

“ AGAINST the origin of the aorta it sends
 “ off a branch towards the heart; which di-
 “ viding into two, the lesser twists about the
 “ pulmonary vein; the bigger proceeds to
 “ the pericardium, and heart, after having
 “ sent off a twig, which, with others from
 “ the intercostals, make the plexes cardiacus
 “ superior: proceeding still further, it sends
 “ out several ramifications, which, meeting
 “ together, make the plexus pneumonicus,
 “ whence arise fibres that constrict the vessels
 “ and vesicles of the lungs. In its passage
 “ downwards, it distributes several branches
 “ to the oesophagus, along which it runs.

“ ABOUT the lower vertebræ of the neck,
 “ the trunk divides into two branches, the
 “ external and internal, communicating all
 “ along by several ramifications, and at length
 “ re-uniting. The rest of this pair joins with
 “ the intercostals in the formation of several
 “ plexuses in the lower venter, and in them
 “ seems to terminate.

“ ALONG

“ ALONG with these, and wrapp’d up in
 “ the same coat. from the dura mater, passes
 “ the accessory nerve, or par accessorium.
 “ It has its origin from the medulla contain’d
 “ in the vertebræ of the neck. Soon after
 “ its return out of the skull, it leaves the
 “ par vagum, again, and is distributed into
 “ the muscles of the neck and shoulders.

“ INTERCOSTAL nerves, consist of nervous
 “ filaments derived, partly from the brain,
 “ viz. branches of the fifth and sixth pair,
 “ and partly from the spinal marrow, by
 “ those branches they receive from the ver-
 “ tebral nerves.

“ IN each trunk of these nerves, e’er it
 “ arrives at the thorax, are two cervical plex-
 “ uses, the upper whereof receives a branch
 “ from each trunk of the par vagum; the
 “ under sends out several ramifications to the
 “ oesophagus and asperia arteria, and parti-
 “ cularly a large one to the recurrent nerve.
 “ From the same plexus descend two other
 “ ramifications to the cardiac plexus; which
 “ are

“ are joined a little lower by a third, from
 “ which the intercostal nerve descending to
 “ the clavicles, divides into two, and embraces
 “ and constricts the subclavian artery;
 “ thence entering the thorax, it receives three
 “ or four twigs from the upper vertebral
 “ nerve, together with which it constitutes
 “ the intercostal plexus; and thence descend-
 “ ing along the sides of the vertebræ, and
 “ receiving a nervous twig from each of them
 “ to the os sacrum, and entering the abdo-
 “ men, it forms several considerable plex-
 “ uses, viz. the lienares hepaticus, the two
 “ renales, mesentericus magnus, and two
 “ little ones in the pelvis.

“ NINTH pair of nerves, motorii linguæ,
 “ arise from the middle of the centrum ovale,
 “ by three or four small twigs, and go out of
 “ the skull near the process of the occiput;
 “ and send their branches to the tongue.

“ THEY may be likewise call'd gustatorii, as
 “ they contribute, together with the branches
 “ of

“ of the fifth and sixth pair, to the sensation
 “ of tasting.

“ Tenth pair of nerves, arise by two or
 “ three branches from the medulla oblongata,
 “ just below the corpora pyramidalia and oli-
 “ varia, or rather, at the beginning of the
 “ medulla spinalis; whence reflecting a little
 “ backwards, it goes out of the skull be-
 “ tween the first vertebra of the neck, and
 “ the process of the occiput.

“ It is spent on the external muscles of the
 “ head and ears.

“ NERVES from the spinal marrow.

“ THE spinal nerves, (i. e. those springing
 “ from the medulla after its egress out of the
 “ skull, where it lays aside the name oblon-
 “ gata, and assumes that of spinalis) are
 “ thirty pair: of which some are reckon’d
 “ as belonging to the neck, as having their
 “ origin thence, and call’d cervical nerves;
 “ others to the dorsum, or back, and call’d

“ dorsal nerves; others to the loins, call’d
 “ lumbal nerves, and the rest to the os sa-
 “ crum.

“ CERVICAL nerves. Of these there are
 “ seven pair: the first pair arise between the
 “ first and second vertebra of the neck, and,
 “ contrary to the rest, come out before and
 “ behind; whereas the other six pair come
 “ out laterally from the junctures of the ver-
 “ tebræ, thro’ particular perforations near
 “ the transverse processes. They go to the
 “ muscles of the head and ear.

“ THE second pair contributes the main
 “ branch towards the formation of the dia-
 “ phragmatic nerves, which, according to
 “ VIEUSSENS, spring only from the fourth
 “ and sixth pair.

“ THE three last pair of the neck joining
 “ with the two first of the dorsum, or thorax,
 “ make the brachial nerves.

“ ALL

“ ALL the cervical nerves send innumer-
 “ able branches to the muscles, and other
 “ parts of the head, neck, and shoulders.

“ DORSAL nerves are in number twelve.
 “ These, excepting what the two upper pair
 “ contribute to the brachial nerve, are ge-
 “ nerally distributed into the intercostal and
 “ abdominal muscles, the pleura and exter-
 “ nal parts of the thorax.

“ LUMBAL nerves, are five pair; the first
 “ of which sends two branches to the lower
 “ side of the diaphragm. The second, some
 “ twigs to the genital parts, and others, as
 “ well as the three following, to give the first
 “ roots to the crural nerves. The rest of the
 “ branches of the lumbal nerves are distri-
 “ buted into the muscles of the loins and
 “ adjacent parts. Nerves of the os sacrum,
 “ are six pair; the first three or four pair
 “ whereof are bestowed wholly on the crural
 “ nerves; the rest on the muscles of the anus,
 “ vesica, and genital parts.

“ BRACHIAL nerves, are the offspring partly
 “ of the cervicals, and partly of the dorsals.
 “ These, after the several branches whereof
 “ they are composed have been variously com-
 “ plicated and united, run but a little way
 “ in a trunk ere they divide again into several
 “ branches, variously distributed into the mus-
 “ cles of the skin and arms.

“ DIAPHRAGMATIC nerves, are likewise the
 “ offspring of the cervicals. These, after
 “ joining in a trunk, run through the medi-
 “ astinum undivided, ’till they arrive near
 “ the diaphragm, into which they send off
 “ several branches; some into the muscular,
 “ others into the tendinous part of it.

“ CRURAL nerves, consist of an union of
 “ six or seven pair, viz. the three last of the
 “ lumbal, and three or four first of the os
 “ sacrum. These, after having spent their
 “ upper branches on the muscles of the thigh
 “ and skin, as far as the knee, proceed in a
 “ trunk downwards, which sends its branches
 “ to the extremities of the toes, supplying as

“ it

“ it goes, the muscles and skin of the leg and
 “ foot. This is the largest and firmest nerv-
 “ ous trunk in the body.”

FROM this account of the nerves, the attentive and candid reader may judge of the propriety of my future remarks on hysterical and nervous complaints, complaints truly deplorable, and deserving the more attention, as those unhappy people who are afflicted by them, are often supposed to be only whimsical and wayward, (because they appear in other respects tolerably well) yet are, as Dr. CHEYNE observes, the most miserable of all human beings. It was likewise remarked by another learned and judicious physician, “ that he had
 “ seen persons labouring under the most ex-
 “ quisite pains of the gout, stone, cholic,
 “ cancer, and all other distempers that can
 “ tear the human frame ; yet that he observed
 “ them all willing to prolong their wretched
 “ lives, except such as suffered a constant
 “ anxiety of mind, meaning those afflicted
 “ with nervous disorders.”

DOCTOR PURCELL says, in his treatise “ of
“ vapours or hysterical fits,” page 124 ;

“ Tho’ it sometimes happen, that the acci-
“ dents of this distemper are so violent as to
“ kill the patient; yet, generally speaking,
“ this disease is not mortal, however the ex-
“ traordinary difficulty we find in curing it,
“ make it be justly termed the scourge and
“ reproach of physicians.”

DOCTOR COLE, another very ingenious phy-
fician, in a letter to the great SYDENHAM,
which he wrote in order to prevail on him to
publish his history of hysterical disorders,
says, “ Having learnt that you have some
“ curious remarks on hysterical disorders,
“ (which as they have exercised and fatigued
“ the minds of the ablest physicians of all
“ ages, so alas! do they often withstand the
“ methods of cure delivered, and demonstrate
“ how unsafe it is to trust to our reason in
“ philosophical matters, except in such things
“ as fall under the notice and testimony of
“ our senses,) you must give me leave to say,
“ that

“ that you will doubtless greatly oblige both
 “ the present age and posterity, by publish-
 “ ing your sentiments of them.”

IN consequence of this letter, and from the most benevolent motives, the amiable SYDENHAM obliged the world with the following history of hysterical disorders. If it should be asked why I gave this instead of my own, it is because I cannot give so good a one; a reason which I hope will be sufficiently satisfactory to every person who reads with a view to acquire useful knowledge.

“ I PROCEED now, in compliance with your
 “ request, to communicate the observations
 “ I have hitherto made concerning hysteric dis-
 “ orders; which I own are neither so easily
 “ discoverable, nor so readily curable as other
 “ diseases. However, I will endeavour to
 “ acquit myself herein to the best of my abi-
 “ lity, and with that brevity the compass of
 “ a letter requires; which in reality I am
 “ obliged to on account of my ill health,
 “ particularly at this season of the year, when
 “ too

“ too intense application would immediately
 “ bring on a fit of the gout. For this reason
 “ I shall avoid prolixity, and proceed agree-
 “ ably to my usual method, to give a short
 “ history of the disease, according to its ge-
 “ nuine natural phenomena; which I for-
 “ merly learnt rather from my own experi-
 “ ence than from reading.

“ It should seem that no chronic disease
 “ occurs so frequently as this; and that, as
 “ fevers with their attendants constitute two
 “ thirds of the diseases to which mankind are
 “ liable, upon comparing them with the
 “ whole tribe of chronic distempers, so hys-
 “ teric disorders, or at least such as are so
 “ called, make up half the remaining third
 “ part, that is, they constitute one moiety of
 “ chronic distempers. For few women (which
 “ sex makes one half of the grown persons)
 “ excepting such as work and fare hardly,
 “ are quite free from every species of this dis-
 “ order, and several men also, who lead a
 “ sedentary life, and study hard, are afflicted
 “ with the same. And tho’ the symptoms
 “ arising

“ arising from hysteric diseases, were, by the
 “ antients, supposed to proceed from some
 “ disorder in the womb; yet upon comparing
 “ hypochondriac complaints, which we judge
 “ to arise from obstructions of the spleen and
 “ other viscera, with those symptoms which
 “ seize hysteric women, we find a great
 “ similitude between them. But it must be
 “ owned that women are oftner attacked with
 “ these disorders than men; not indeed be-
 “ cause the womb is more indisposed than
 “ any other part of the body, but for reasons
 “ hereafter to be explained.

“ THIS disease is not more remarkable
 “ for its frequency, than for the numerous
 “ forms under which it appears, resembling
 “ most of the distempers wherewith mankind
 “ are afflicted. For in whatever part of the
 “ body it be seated, it immediately produces
 “ such symptoms as are peculiar thereto; so
 “ that unless the physician be a person of
 “ judgment and penetration, he will be mis-
 “ taken, and suppose such symptoms to arise
 “ from some essential disease of this or that

“ particular part, and not from the hyſteric
 “ paſſion.

“ To exemplify this remark. Sometimes
 “ it attacks the head, and cauſes an apo-
 “ plexy, which alſo terminates in an he-
 “ miplegia, exactly reſembling that kind of
 “ apoplexy, which proves fatal to ſome aged
 “ and corpulent perſons, and ariſes from an
 “ obſtruction and compreſſion of the nerves,
 “ occaſioned by a copious phlegm contained
 “ in the cortical part of the brain. But the
 “ apoplexy in hyſteric women ſeems to pro-
 “ ceed from a very different cauſe; for it
 “ ſeizes them frequently after a difficult de-
 “ livery, attended with a great loſs of blood,
 “ or proceeds from ſome violent commotion
 “ of mind.

“ SOMETIMES it cauſes terrible convul-
 “ ſions, much like the epilepsy, along
 “ with a riſing of the abdomen and viſcera
 “ towards the throat, and ſuch ſtrong con-
 “ vulſive motions that tho’ the patient be
 “ otherwiſe rather weak, ſhe can ſcarce be
 “ held

“ held by the attendants, and she talks wildly
 “ and unintelligibly, and beats her breast.
 “ This species of the disease, which is com-
 “ monly entitled the strangulation of the
 “ womb, or fits of the mother, happens
 “ most frequently to such women as are of
 “ a very sanguine and robust constitution.

“ SOMETIMES this disease attacks the ex-
 “ ternal part of the head, between the peri-
 “ cranium and the cranium, and occasions
 “ violent pain, which continues fixed in one
 “ place, not exceeding the breadth of the
 “ thumb, and it is likewise accompanied with
 “ very violent vomiting. I call this species
 “ the clavus hystericus, which chiefly affects
 “ such as have the green-sickness.

“ SOMETIMES it seizes the vital parts,
 “ and causes so violent a palpitation of the
 “ heart, that the patient is persuaded those
 “ about her must needs hear the heart strike
 “ against the ribs. Slender and weakly wo-
 “ men that seem consumptive, and girls that
 “ have

“ have the green-sickness, are chiefly subject
 “ to this species.

“ SOMETIMES it affects the lungs, causing
 “ an almost perpetual dry cough; and
 “ tho’ it does not shake the breast so violently,
 “ yet the fits are more frequent, and
 “ the patient’s senses are also disordered. But
 “ this species of the hysteric cough is very
 “ rare, and chiefly happens to women of a
 “ phlegmatic constitution.

“ SOMETIMES attacking the parts beneath
 “ the scrobiculum-cordis in a violent manner,
 “ it occasions extreme pain, like the
 “ iliac passion, and is attended with a copious
 “ vomiting of a certain green matter, nearly
 “ resembling what is usually called porraceous
 “ bile, and sometimes the matter is of an
 “ uncommon color. And frequently after the
 “ pain and vomiting have continued several
 “ days, and greatly debilitated the patient,
 “ the fit is at length terminated by an universal
 “ jaundice. Moreover the patient is

“ so

“ so highly terrified, as to despair of reco-
 “ vering; and, as far as I have observed,
 “ this dejection, or despondency, as certainly
 “ accompanies this species of the hysteric
 “ passion, as either the pains or vomiting
 “ above-mentioned. This kind chiefly attacks
 “ women of a lax texture of body, or those
 “ who have suffered greatly by being delivered
 “ of large children.

“ SOMETIMES this disease seizes one of
 “ the kidneys, where, by the violent pain
 “ it occasions, it entirely resembles a fit of the
 “ stone, not only with respect to the kind of
 “ pain and the part affected, but likewise by
 “ the violent vomiting wherewith it is accom-
 “ panied, and the pain’s extending through
 “ the whole duct of the ureter: so that it is
 “ hard to distinguish whether the symptoms
 “ arise from the stone or an hysteric disorder:
 “ unless, perhaps, the woman’s spirit having
 “ been depress’d by some misfortune, a little
 “ before the disorder came on, or the discharge
 “ of green matter by vomit, should shew
 “ that the symptoms are rather to be ascribed
 “ to

“ to an hysterical disorder than the stone. The
 “ bladder also is occasionally affected with
 “ this delusory symptom, which not only
 “ causes pain, but a suppression of urine, as
 “ if there was a stone, tho’ there is none.
 “ This last species rarely happens, but the
 “ former more frequently. Both are accus-
 “ tomed to attack such women as are greatly
 “ debilitated by frequent hysterical fits, and in
 “ a bad state of health.

“ SOMETIMES seizing the stomach, it causes
 “ continual vomiting; and sometimes fix-
 “ ing in the intestines, occasions a purging;
 “ but both these symptoms are without pain,
 “ tho’ the above-mentioned green humor fre-
 “ quently appears in both. Such also as
 “ have been weakened by frequent hysterical
 “ fits, are chiefly subject to both these spe-
 “ cies.

“ MOREOVER as this disease affects
 “ most of the internal parts, so likewise it
 “ sometimes attacks the external parts, and
 “ muscular flesh, sometimes causing pain,
 “ and

“ and sometimes a tumor in the fauces,
 “ shoulders, hands, thighs, and legs, in which
 “ kind the swelling which distends the legs,
 “ is most remarkable. For whereas in drop-
 “ sical swellings these two particulars may
 “ always be observed, namely, (1) they in-
 “ crease towards night, and (2) pit for some
 “ time after being pressed by the finger;
 “ in this tumor the swelling is largest in the
 “ morning, and does not yield to the finger, or
 “ leave any mark behind it, and it generally
 “ only swells one of the legs. In other re-
 “ spects, if the magnitude and surface of it
 “ be observed, it differs so little from drop-
 “ sical tumors, that the patient can scarce be
 “ persuaded to think it otherwise.

“ THE teeth also (which one would scarce
 “ believe) are subject to this disease, tho’
 “ free from the least cavity, and manifest
 “ defluxion that might cause pain, which
 “ nevertheless is not at all milder, of shorter
 “ continuance, or more easily curable. But
 “ the pains and swellings that affect the exter-
 “ nal parts, chiefly happen to such women

“ as

“ as are almost worn out by the long continuance and violence of hysteric fits.

“ But the most frequent of all the tormenting symptoms of this disease, is a pain of the back, which generally accompanies even the slightest degree of it. The above-mentioned pains likewise have this effect in common, that the part they affect cannot bear the touch after they are gone off, but remains tender and painful, as if it had been severely beaten; but this tenderness wears off by degrees.

“ It is likewise well worth noting, that all these symptoms are preceded by a remarkable coldness of the external parts, which seldom goes off, before the fit ceases. And I have observed, that this coldness resembles that which is perceived in dead bodies, the pulse, notwithstanding, continuing regular. Whereto may be added, that most of the hysteric women that I have hitherto treated, have complained of a lowness, and (to use their expression) a sinking
“ of

“ of the spirits; which, by their pointing
 “ to the region of the lungs, to shew the part
 “ affected, seemed to be seated there. Lastly,
 “ it is generally known, that hysteric women
 “ sometimes laugh, and sometimes cry, ex-
 “ cessively, without the least apparent pro-
 “ vocation.

“ BUT amongst the symptoms accompa-
 “ nying this disease, the most peculiar and
 “ general one is the making great quantities
 “ of urine as clear as rock water; which,
 “ upon diligent enquiry, I find to be the
 “ distinguishing sign of those disorders which
 “ we call hypochondriac in men, and hysteric
 “ in women, and I have sometimes observed
 “ in men, that soon after having made urine
 “ of an amber color, being suddenly seized
 “ with some extraordinary disturbance of
 “ mind, they have made a large quantity of
 “ clear water, with a continued violent stream,
 “ and remained indisposed ’till the urine came
 “ to its former color, when the fit went
 “ off.

“ MOREOVER, in hysteric and hypochon-
 “ driac subjects, when the disease has been
 “ of long standing, they have fetid, and
 “ sometimes highly acid eructations, after
 “ eating, tho’ they eat moderately, accord-
 “ ing to the appetite, the digestive faculty
 “ being greatly impaired, and the juices vi-
 “ tiated.

“ BUT their unhappiness does not only
 “ proceed from a great indisposition of body,
 “ for the mind is still more disordered; it be-
 “ ing the nature of this disease to be attended
 “ with an incurable despair; so that they
 “ cannot bear with patience to be told that
 “ there is any hope at all of their recovery,
 “ easily imagining that they are liable to all
 “ the miseries that can befall mankind; and
 “ presaging the worst evils to themselves.
 “ Upon the least occasion also they indulge
 “ terror, anger, jealousy, distrust, and other
 “ hateful passions, and abhor joy and hope,
 “ and cheerfulness, which, if they accident-
 “ ally arise, as they seldom do, quickly fly
 “ away, and yet disturb the mind as much as
 “ the

“ the depressing passions do ; so that they ob-
 “ serve no mean in any thing, and are con-
 “ stant only to inconstancy. They love the
 “ same persons extravagantly at one time, and
 “ and soon after hate them without a cause ;
 “ this instant they propose doing one thing,
 “ and the next change their mind, and enter
 “ upon something contrary to it, but without
 “ finishing it ; so unsettled is their mind, that
 “ they are never at rest. What the Roman
 “ orators assert of the superstitious, agrees
 “ exactly with these melancholic persons.
 “ Sleep seems to be a relief from labor and
 “ inquietude, but from this many cares and
 “ fears arise ; their dreams being ever accom-
 “ panied with the representations of funerals
 “ and apparitions of their departed friends,
 “ and so much are they distempered in body
 “ and mind, that it seems as if this life were
 “ a purgatory, to expiate offences committed
 “ in a pre-existent state. Nor is this the
 “ case only in furious maniacs, but even in
 “ those, who, excepting these violent passions,
 “ are judicious persons, and for profoundness
 “ of thought, and solidity of speech, greatly
 “ excel

“ excel those whose minds were never dis-
“ turbed by these tormenting thoughts. So
“ that the observation of ARISTOTLE is just,
“ who asserts that melancholy persons are the
“ most ingenious.

“ BUT this very dreadful state of mind,
“ which I have mentioned above, only at-
“ tacks such as have been much and long
“ afflicted with this disease, and are at length
“ overcome thereby; especially if misfor-
“ tunes, grief, care, hard study, and the like,
“ along with an ill habit of body, have con-
“ tributed thereto.

“ IT would take up too much time to
“ enumerate all the symptoms belonging to
“ hysteric diseases; so much do they vary and
“ differ from each other. Nor do they only
“ differ so greatly, but are so irregular like-
“ wise, that they cannot be comprehended
“ under any uniform appearance, as is usual
“ in other diseases; but are a kind of disor-
“ derly train of symptoms, so that it is a
“ difficult

“ difficult task to write the history of this
 “ disease.

“ THE procatarctic, or external causes
 “ thereof are either violent motions of the
 “ body, or, more frequently, some great
 “ commotion of mind, occasioned by some
 “ sudden fit, either of anger, grief, terror,
 “ or the like passions, Upon this account,
 “ whenever I am consulted by women con-
 “ cerning any particular disorder, which can-
 “ not be accounted for on the common prin-
 “ ciples of investigating diseases, I always en-
 “ quire, whether they are not chiefly attacked
 “ with it after fretting, or any disturbance
 “ of mind; and if they acknowledge this, I
 “ am well assured that the disease is to be
 “ ascribed to the tribe of disorders under
 “ consideration, especially if the diagnostic
 “ appears more evident by a copious evacu-
 “ ation of pale urine at certain times. But
 “ to these disturbances of mind, which are
 “ the usual causes of this disease, must be
 “ added, emptiness of the stomach, from
 “ long fasting, on immoderate evacuations,
 “ whether

“ whether by bleeding too profusely, or giving too strong a vomit or purge.

“ HAVING now given a full description of
 “ this disease, according to its common symptoms, we are next to consider, the internal
 “ efficient causes thereof, so far as these can
 “ be discovered from all the circumstances
 “ which we have described, taken together:
 “ and, in my opinion, disorders, which we
 “ term hysteric in women, and hypochondriac
 “ in men, arise from irregular motions of the
 “ animal spirits, whence they are hurried with
 “ violence, and too copiously to a particular
 “ part, occasioning convulsions and pain,
 “ when they exert their force upon parts of
 “ delicate sensation; and destroying the functions of the respective organs which they
 “ enter into, and of those also whence they
 “ came; both being highly injur’d by this
 “ unequal distribution, which quite perverts
 “ the œconomy of nature.

“ THE origin and antecedent cause of these
 “ irregular motions of the spirits, proceed
 “ from

“ from the weakness of their texture, whether
 “ it be natural or adventitious, whence they
 “ are easily dissipable upon the least accident,
 “ and their office perverted. For as the body
 “ is composed of parts which are manifest to
 “ the senses, so doubtless the mind consists
 “ in a regular frame or make of the spirits,
 “ which is the object of reason only. And
 “ this being so intimately united with the tem-
 “ perament of the body, is more or less dis-
 “ ordered, according as the constituent parts
 “ thereof, given us by nature, are more or
 “ less firm. Hence women are more fre-
 “ quently affected with this disease than men,
 “ because kind nature has given them a finer
 “ and more delicate constitution of body.

“ BUT that the irregular motion of the
 “ spirits is the cause of this disease, is fully
 “ manifest from the symptoms just enumer-
 “ ated; I will only mention the principal,
 “ beginning with that remarkable one, the
 “ strangulation of the womb, or fits of the
 “ mother. In this case the spirits being copi-
 “ ously collected in the lower belly, and rush-
 “ ing

“ ing with violence to the fauces, occasion
 “ convulsions in all the parts through which
 “ they pass, puffing up the belly like a ball;
 “ which however is only a kind of convolu-
 “ tion of the convulsed parts, that cannot be
 “ suppress’d without using violent means.
 “ The external parts of the flesh, in the mean
 “ time, being in great measure destitute of
 “ spirits, which are carried another way,
 “ frequently become so cold, both in this
 “ and all the other kinds of hysteric disorders,
 “ that dead bodies are not colder, whilst the
 “ pulse remains in its natural state; this symp-
 “ tom however is not dangerous, unless it be
 “ owing to some preceding excessive evacu-
 “ ation.

THE same may be said of that violent kind
 “ of this disorder, which in outward appear-
 “ ance resembles the bilious colic, or iliac
 “ passion, wherein the patient is afflicted with
 “ a very violent pain, in the parts contiguous
 “ to the scrobiculum cordis, along with a
 “ copious discharge of green matter, by vo-
 “ mit; which symptoms proceed only from

“ a forcible impulse of the spirits stagnating
 “ in those parts, occasioning the pain, con-
 “ vulsion, and loss of their functions.

For it is not immediately to be concluded,
 “ because the discharges upwards and down-
 “ wards, in this disorder, are sometimes green,
 “ that it is seated in the fluids, or that the
 “ violent pain proceeds from the acrimony of
 “ some humor vellicating the parts to which
 “ it adheres, which for this reason we should
 “ esteem the cause of the disease, and there-
 “ fore judge that it ought to be thoroughly
 “ expelled by emetics and cathartics. For it
 “ appears that the sickness, which seizes those
 “ who go to sea, occasioned by the agitation
 “ of the animal spirits from the motion of the
 “ ship, is attended in healthy subjects with a
 “ vomiting of green matter, tho’ but half
 “ an hour before no such bile, as we term
 “ porracious, existed in the body. Again,
 “ do not children in convulsive fits, in which
 “ the animal spirits are principally disordered,
 “ evacuate a matter of the same color upwards
 “ and downwards? Whereto must be sub-

“ joined, what is manifest from daily experi-
 “ ence, viz. that tho’ such women and chil-
 “ dren should be thoroughly emptied by
 “ repeated purging, yet the greenness would
 “ still appear in the discharges upwards and
 “ downwards.” Moreover the green matter
 “ encreases upon the frequent use either of
 “ emetics or cathartics; because both these
 “ evacuations cause a greater disturbance of
 “ the animal spirits; which, I cannot tell
 “ how, quite destroys the ferment of those
 “ parts, or by the violence of the convulsions,
 “ forces some juice of a strange nature into
 “ the stomach and intestines, which has the
 “ property of tinging the juices with this
 “ color. The chymists, indeed, tho’ they
 “ cannot furnish us with better remedies,
 “ than may be obtained from pharmacy, are,
 “ however, able to gratify our curiosity, by
 “ exhibiting two equally clear transparent
 “ liquors, which upon mixture immediately
 “ become of some deep color, as if there was
 “ conjuration in the case. But, in reality,
 “ the consideration of colors is so insignificant
 “ and variable, that no certainty can be had
 “ from

“ from them, with respect to the nature of those
 “ bodies wherein they appear: for it does not
 “ more necessarily follow, that whatever is of
 “ a green color is acrid, than that all acrid
 “ things are green. Upon the whole 'tis ap-
 “ parent, that the violent pain which almost
 “ destroys such as are seized with the hysteric
 “ colic, and the evacuation of the green mat-
 “ ter, proceeds entirely from the violent
 “ rushing of the spirits to the parts beneath
 “ the scorbiculum cordis, and contracting
 “ them by convulsions.

“ To this irregular motion of the spirits
 “ the clavus hystericus is to be ascribed, in
 “ which all the spirits are collected in a cer-
 “ tain point of the pericranium, occasioning
 “ such a kind of pain, as if a nail were driven
 “ into the head, and attended with a copi-
 “ ous discharge of green matter by vomit.
 “ And this contraction of all the spirits, into
 “ a kind of point, differs little from the col-
 “ lection of the rays of the sun by a burning
 “ glass; for as these burn by their united
 “ force, so those for the same reason cause a
 “ pain

“ pain, by tearing the membranes with united
 “ violence.

“ AND from the same inordinate motion of
 “ the spirits, which disturbs the mixture of
 “ the blood, arises the voiding of a copious
 “ clear urine; which is a frequent symptom
 “ in hyleric and hypochondriac disorders;
 “ for when the due circulation of the blood is
 “ often disturbed, the serum is hurried to the
 “ urinary passages before it has remained long
 “ enough in the body, to be impregnated
 “ with those saline particles that render it of
 “ a straw color. We have frequent instances
 “ of this, in those who drink too freely, espe-
 “ cially of thin and attenuating liquors, whose
 “ urine immediately becomes transparent there-
 “ upon: in which case the blood being stock’d
 “ with an over proportion of serum, which it
 “ cannot retain, discharges it quite clear, and
 “ not yet colored by the juices, by reason of
 “ its too short stay in the body.

“ THREE years since a nobleman sent for
 “ me, who seemed to be afflicted with an
 “ hypo-

“ hypochondriac colic, differing little from
 “ an iliac passion, attended with pain, and
 “ immoderate vomitings, which he had long
 “ labored under, so that he was in a manner
 “ worn out. During the whole course of
 “ the disease, whenever he was worst, I ob-
 “ served that he always voided a clear color-
 “ less urine, but upon the abatement of the
 “ disorder, it inclined to its natural straw
 “ color. Visiting him one day, I found his
 “ urine that was made at three several times,
 “ and kept apart, of a straw color, and he
 “ was very chearful, had an appetite, and
 “ thought of eating something of easy diges-
 “ tion; but some person coming in that instant,
 “ and putting him into a violent passion, he
 “ immediately thereupon made a large quan-
 “ tity of very clear water.

“ POSSIBLY the spitting, which is so common
 “ a symptom in hysteric subjects, arises from
 “ the spirits, disturbing the mixture of the
 “ blood: they spit a thin saliva for many
 “ weeks, as if it were produced by mercurial
 “ unction; for during this commotion of the
 “ blood,

“ blood, which renders it unfit to perform
 “ the excretions in the natural way, the serum
 “ accidentally taking this contrary course, is
 “ not discharged by the kidneys according
 “ to the laws of nature, but derived to the
 “ glands from the extremities of the arteries,
 “ and empties itself by the salival ducts in
 “ the form of saliva. The same may be said
 “ of those profuse night sweats, which some-
 “ times seize hysteric women, and proceed
 “ only from the ill state of the serum of the
 “ blood, which disposes it to be thrown on
 “ the habit, from the irregular motion of the
 “ blood just mentioned.

“ It is manifest also that the coldness
 “ of the external parts, which often happens
 “ in hysteric disorders, arises from the spirits
 “ forsaking their station, and crowding too
 “ much to some particular part; and doubt-
 “ less both the crying and laughing fits, which
 “ frequently affect hysteric women without
 “ any provocation, are caused by the violent
 “ action of the animal spirits upon the organs
 “ which perform these animal functions.

“ AND

“ AND, by the way, I must observe that
 “ men are sometimes subject to such crying
 “ fits, tho’ rarely. I was called not long
 “ since to an ingenious gentleman, who had
 “ recovered of a fever but a few days be-
 “ fore ; he employed another physician, who
 “ had blooded and purged him thrice, and
 “ forbid him the use of flesh. When I came
 “ and found him up, and heard him talk
 “ sensibly on some subjects, I asked why I
 “ was sent for; to which one of his friends
 “ replied, if I would have a little patience I
 “ should be satisfied. Accordingly sitting
 “ down, and entering into discourse with the
 “ patient, I immediately perceived that his
 “ under lip was thrust outward, and in fre-
 “ quent motion (as it happens to fretful chil-
 “ dren, who pout before they cry) which was
 “ succeeded by the most violent fit of crying
 “ I had ever seen, attended with deep and
 “ almost convulsive sighs; but it soon went
 “ off. I conceived that this disorder proceeded
 “ from an irregular motion of the spirits,
 “ occasioned in part by the long continuance
 “ of the disease, and partly by the evacuations
 “ that

“ that were required in order to the cure ;
 “ partly also by emptiness, and the abstinence
 “ from flesh, which the physician had or-
 “ dered to be continued for some days after
 “ his recovery to prevent a relapse. I main-
 “ tained that he was in no danger of a fever,
 “ and that his disorder proceeded wholly from
 “ emptiness ; and therefore ordered him a
 “ roast chicken for dinner, and advised him
 “ to drink wine moderately at his meals ;
 “ which being complied with, and he conti-
 “ nuing to eat flesh sparingly, his disorder left
 “ him.

“ To conclude (not to mention the other
 “ concomitant symptoms of this disease) the
 “ disturbance and variable indisposition of body
 “ and mind, which prevail in hysteric and hypo-
 “ chondriac subjects, arise from the same in-
 “ ordinate motion of the spirits : for such
 “ persons not having that firmness of spirits
 “ which the robust, and those who never want
 “ vigorous spirits, always possess, cannot bear
 “ misfortunes, but being soon moved by pas-
 “ sion or pain, are as much affected as those
 “ whose

“ whose minds are originally weak, or ren-
 “ dered so by a long train of disorders, or
 “ their long continuance. For the strength
 “ and steadiness of the mind, during its
 “ union with the body, chiefly depends on
 “ the firmness of the spirits which are subser-
 “ vient thereto; which are in reality composed
 “ of the finest particles of matter, and border
 “ upon immaterial or spiritual beings. And
 “ as the frame of the mind, if I may use the
 “ expression, is more curious and artful than
 “ the structure of the body; as consisting in
 “ an harmony of the most excellent, and al-
 “ most divine faculties; so if the constitution
 “ be any way disordered, the evil must be so
 “ much the greater, the more excellent and
 “ delicate the workmanship was, whilst it re-
 “ mained entire. And this indeed is the case
 “ of those miserable dejected persons we have
 “ described, which the positive command of
 “ the proudest Stoic would not sooner relieve,
 “ than the tooth-ach would be prevented by
 “ a person’s firmly resolving not to suffer his
 “ teeth to ach.

“ I CONCEIVE now that it is sufficiently
 “ manifest that all the kinds of this disease
 “ are to be ascribed to a disorder of the ani-
 “ mal spirits ; and not to the ascent of ma-
 “ lignant vapours from the corrupted semen,
 “ or menstruous blood, to the parts affected,
 “ as some authors have asserted; or, as others
 “ affirm, to a latent depravity of the juices,
 “ or a collection of acrid humours. For that
 “ the cause of this disease does not lie con-
 “ cealed in any morbid matter, appears evi-
 “ dent from this single instance: if a slender
 “ weak woman, otherwise usually healthy,
 “ happens by mistake to be debilitated and
 “ exhausted by a strong vomit or purgative,
 “ she will infallibly be seized with some one
 “ of the concomitant symptoms of this dis-
 “ ease; which would rather have been carried
 “ off than occasioned thereby, if the cause
 “ thereof had been contained in an humor.
 “ The same may be said of too great a loss of
 “ blood, whether it be taken away by bleed-
 “ ing, flow immoderately after delivery, or be
 “ diminished by inanition and too long absti-
 “ nence from flesh; all which would rather be
 “ preventive

“ preventive than productive of hysteric dis-
 “ eases, if the cause thereof were included in
 “ some kind of matter; whereas, on the con-
 “ trary, they are never more certainly occa-
 “ sioned than by these evacuations.

“ But tho’ it abundantly appears, that the
 “ original cause of this disease is not seated
 “ in the fluid; it must nevertheless be owned,
 “ which indeed is fact, that the irregular mo-
 “ tion of the spirits, whence it proceeds,
 “ generates putrid humors in the body; be-
 “ cause the function both of those parts
 “ which suffer from the violent action of the
 “ spirits upon them, and those which are de-
 “ prived thereof; are quite destroyed. And
 “ most of these being a kind of separatory
 “ organs or strainers, designed for the recep-
 “ tion of the excrementitious parts of the
 “ blood, it follows that if their functions be
 “ any way injured, abundance of the impu-
 “ rities must needs be collected in the bodies,
 “ which had been expelled, and consequently
 “ the whole mass of blood rendered more
 “ pure, provided every organ had done its
 “ office,

“ office, which would not have been wanting,
 “ if each had received its proper supply of
 “ spirits. To this cause I ascribe remarkable
 “ cachexies, loss of appetite, and the green-
 “ sickness in young women (which latter is
 “ doubtless a species of hysteric disorders)
 “ and all the numerous evils which trouble
 “ those who have been long afflicted with this
 “ disease; for all these proceed from corrupt
 “ juices collected in the blood, and derived
 “ thence to various organs. Of this kind is
 “ a dropsy of the womb in women who have
 “ long labored under hysteric disorders, pro-
 “ ceeding from a translocation of vitiated juices
 “ from the blood to these organs; which
 “ impairs their functions, whence they first
 “ become sterile, and the tone of the parts is
 “ quite destroyed; and afterwards sanies and
 “ serum are generated, which not only distend
 “ the ovaries and ova considerably, but in-
 “ sinuating themselves into the interstices of
 “ the teguments, greatly swell them, as ap-
 “ pears upon dissecting the bodies of such as
 “ perish by this disease. In the mean time
 “ the hysteric disposition is the primary cause
 “ of

“ of these and other similar humors, tho’
 “ they are not of the same kind with it.

“ IN the same manner in a quartan, where-
 “ with a person in perfect health may be
 “ seized, by residing two or three days in
 “ moist and marshy places; some spirituous
 “ venom of this disease is first communicated
 “ to the blood, which remaining a consider-
 “ able time, and the animal œconomy being
 “ at length injured, taints all the juices of
 “ the body, and quite alters their nature;
 “ whence the patient, especially if he be in
 “ the decline of life, is disposed to cachexies
 “ and other disorders, which succeed inveter-
 “ ate intermittents. And yet these intermit-
 “ tents are not to be cured by those remedies
 “ which are adapted to purge off such hu-
 “ mours, but by such specifics as are imme-
 “ diately curative of these disorders.”

IF the reader is desirous of consulting other
 authors, give me leave to refer him to Doctors
 WHYTT, BAYNE, and PURCELL, who have
 all written on this subject.

It is much to be lamented that SYDENHAM, who has given us so excellent a history of these disorders, has accounted for them so little to the satisfaction of an inquisitive mind. His want of a clear conception of them, was probably the cause of his ill success in attempting to relieve them, and the likely means of misleading other practitioners; as we are amazingly prejudiced in favor of this or that system, as it is more or less countenanced and adopted by men of eminence and distinguished characters. What numberless misfortunes have arisen from this source, to the disgrace of medicine? How notoriously has this been the case with respect to the gout, from an opinion that it was caused by an acidity in the blood? This pernicious error has maintained itself for two thousand years, to the injury and scandal of physic; supported by the authority of men of understanding, reason, and science: strange! but true! Nor is it to be wondered at that so little relief has been administered to gouty patients whilst the generating cause of the disease was so totally misapprehended. The recognition of that prevailing error relative to

an acidity in the blood, gives me an agreeable opportunity of mentioning Dr. MACBRIDE, who has, in a very ingenious book (titled, "Experimental Essays on Medical and Philosophical Subjects," which I beg leave to recommend to the attention of my readers) proved that every thing acid, taken into the stomach, soon looses its manifest quality there; consequently that it can never get into the blood: this reason alone is conclusive. I have just mentioned these circumstances to shew, how necessary it is to investigate the cause of diseases, without which we cannot rationally expect to cure them. Suppose a patient afflicted with complaints arising from a want of bile, (which, tho' not common, yet sometimes happen) and he is treated as one who abounds with it, what will be the consequence? why it is very probable he loses his life. This nearly happened to a very worthy man of my acquaintance; his constitution was under the misfortune of not generating a proper quantity of bile, and his complexion having turned yellowish, it was concluded he abounded with bile, and he was treated accordingly: he how-

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ever at last, happily consulted a physician who was blessed with a quick discernment; in consequence of which he soon discovered this gentleman's case, and therefore presently relieved him.

It is indeed well worthy of notice, that bilious cases arise from opposite causes, yet the skin turns yellow in both instances: this appearance has misled many a practitioner (as it did in the above-mentioned case) and has been productive of great injury to the patient.

I AM well aware how difficult a task it is to account for the true efficient cause of every distemper, but it becomes a duty in the practitioner to attempt it, and if his practice be remarkably successful, the candid and judicious will from thence allow his opinion every proper degree of credit.

I SHALL make no more remarks on SYDENHAM's opinion of the cause of hysterical complaints,

plaints, but leave the reader to examine and make his own reflections; but with all due deference to the sentiments of so great a man, I must own it appears these complaints are hereditary and adventitious, from an acrid disposition in the human juices, and a general inclination to weak nerves. . . . This bad disposition is, I believe, principally owing to a distempered bile. . . . Every day's experience convinces me of the truth of this observation, as I find almost every hysterical subject to abound with bile; and tho' this, in moderate quantities, is one of the noblest promoters of digestion, yet when a superabundance of it is generated, and its acrid qualities heightened by being retained too long in the body thro' want of exercise, or any other cause, then it is that it contaminates the juices, and does that dreadful injury to the constitution, not only in hysterical cases, but gouty ones, which I endeavoured to prove in a former publication.

If the reader will refer to the account of the nervous system, he will see there is not

a point in the whole animal body but has a nerve conveyed to it, in order to keep up that action, designed by our Creator for all the offices of life, both voluntary and involuntary. That the nerves are hollow tubes is universally allowed; but whether or no they were designed for conveying animal spirits, remains yet undetermined, tho' it has occasioned innumerable disputes: their being tubes might have given rise to this conjecture; but it appears to me they are formed in this manner by the Author of Nature, in order to increase their quick sensibility and enlivening powers; for that all hollow bodies are more susceptible of impressions than solid ones, is, I believe, universally true; the form of every musical instrument is a proof of it.

THE nerves are evidently the seat or instrument of the senses, and like those harmonious pieces of mechanism above-mentioned capable of injury, but whether that arises from obstructions formed in their cavities, or from offending matter lodged on them, is, I believe, impossible to be determined; but
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where causes are thus impenetrable, it becomes necessary to study effects with greater attention.

IF I may for once be allowed to run into the flowery field of fancy for an illustration of my subject, and may be suffered to compare animate with inanimate bodies, I will suppose the nerves like the strings of a violin, which are, when skilfully strained, (provided the body of the instrument be sound, and in good order) fit, when called upon, to give the most exquisite harmony. And this is generally the case too with regard to the human body, when it is in the most perfect state of health. We will now suppose that the strings are relaxed, or that some injurious matter (such as grease, which is their natural enemy) has fallen on them, or that the body of the violin becomes injured; what then will be the consequence? why this delightful instrument will lose that power to please, which it just before so fully possessed. I will not take upon me positively to assert that hysterical disorders are produced by a relaxation of
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the nerves; or by any offensive matter being lodged on the substance of them, yet I think it a more rational way of accounting for them, than by flying to incomprehensible causes of animal spirits, rushing to this or that part.

THE animal body is obviously made up of solids and fluids, and it is clear that in whatever manner the Divine Being has connected the mysterious power of the mind with the body, it grows with it in years and strength, till it arrives at its meridian, and declines with it in age and debilitude, 'till they both vanish from this earthly scene. This union being attentively considered, it cannot be thought strange that many disorders of the body should effect the understanding also.

THAT the nerves of different people are of different degrees of strength and firmness, no one will deny; and as hysterical subjects are generally of tender constitutions, so likewise are their nerves tender and delicate, which accounts not only for their frequent indispositions, but their quick sensibility, and incapacity

capacity of bearing fatigue, excess of joy or sorrow, unexpected sounds, and distressing objects; all which, by agitating their weak nerves, bring on those convulsions, and other melancholy effects so commonly experienced by them.

I HAVE frequently observed too, with infinite concern, that gouty people, whose constitutions have been debilitated by an improper treatment, are frequently afflicted with hysterical and hypochondriacal complaints; diseases, tho' not exactly similar, yet in many instances much alike; attended with such melancholy and horrible ideas, as have frequently pushed on the unhappy subjects of them to acts of suicide, in order to get rid of a life, the continuance of which appears to them more dreadful than death itself.

It is beyond a doubt that every nerve has its peculiar sensation, wisely designed by the Creator, in order to preserve the œconomy of nature, both intellectual and corporeal; from whence it will follow that if either of
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the nerves should be injured, a pain will be produced correspondent to the part affected: this being attended to, will account for those variable distressing sensations both of body and mind, so common to hysterical patients. From these deductions it is pretty evident, why hysterical patients fancy they are at different times afflicted with every chronicle disorder; for should the affection be in the nerves of the bladder, the kidneys, the colon, the lungs, or the plura, the respective and corresponding effects will be symptoms of the stone, the gravel, the cholic, consumption, or pleureisy, and so on thro' all the diseases poor unhappy mortals are subject to. The want of considering these circumstances with due attention, has often proved fatal to the person afflicted with hysterical paroxysms, as imaginary disorders have been treated like real ones, and the cure which might easily have been performed in the beginning of the complaint, thereby rendered impracticable.

WHOEVER attentively considers what has been said on the subject, will clearly see how
improperly

improperly hysterical disorders have been treated; and the many unhappy objects now living who have tried all human means in order to procure relief, fully prove that no certain method is yet generally known, which will answer so desirable an end; tho' I believe it will be allowed, that the divine art of healing has received considerable improvement from the present race of physicians, many of whom stand in competition with any of the ancients for learning, ingenuity, and universal benevolence.

It was with real concern I observed the uncertain practice of treating these grievous complaints, and therefore thought it highly justifiable and commendable, to endeavor to explore a better one, keeping constantly in my view that line of safety, which on no consideration whatever should be broke through. In consequence of this design, having first most attentively considered the subject, I confess it was clear to me, that this stubborn disease would readily yield to a medicine so compounded, as to brace up the relaxed habit,

habit, correct the vitiated crases of the blood and juices; and at the same time give a strong vibration to the nerves. Conformably with this theory, I united in a medicine such ingredients as have always most happily produced this good effect; I have administered it to many hysterical patients, some dreadfully bad, whom it relieved in a shorter time than I care to mention; nor can I recollect one instance where it has been properly taken, in which it failed of doing real service.

I HOPE it will not appear arrogant or vain, when I declare, that this medicine is very different from any thing I have ever found prescribed in hysterical and nervous cases. I can vouch for its safety, and its merit must depend on its success: what that has already been may partly appear from the following cases. I could have published many more, but as they would have only contained a repetition of what is said in those inserted, I thought it useless and unnecessary. Before I close this paragraph I must beg leave to observe, that Mrs. TUCKER's wishes to have
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her case published, in order to be instrumental in procuring relief to those unhappy people afflicted with similar disorders, does justice to the liberality of her sentiments, and the goodness of her heart.

MRS. TUCKER, of *Chard*, in the county of *Somerset*, was reduced to the most deplorable state by the hysterics. She was afflicted with great oppressions of the lungs, and difficult respiration, extreme giddiness in her head, which often prevented her from standing, a foreness and painful pricking sensation in her eyes, with such a cloud before them, that she could neither see to work or read; a violent fluttering and palpitation of the heart, fainty sweats, and such an universal languor, that the least exercise brought on the greatest fatigue and lassitude; such a miserable digestion, that eating the most trifling food was productive of an uneasy load at her stomach: All this was attended with the most dreadful and horrible anxieties of mind, and such frightful dreams, as surpassed all description, with such oppressions as almost deprived her of the

powers of speech, and made her fear she was breathing her last. In fact she was a burden to herself, and to all about her. She assured me that she had tried every kind of medicine, which had been recommended to her without success; this was confirmed by her apothecary, who told me, she had taken the best advice, and that he had given her by different prescriptions, every anti-hysterical medicine he knew of, and said he thought it in vain to attempt to relieve her, believing it impossible. She being however a deserving woman, I resolved to try what might be done, and accordingly gave her the medicines. She declared she found relief from them the first night, and awoke without her usual fears and terrors: tho' many of her symptoms remained for some days, yet she was able in a fortnight to ride ten miles without any sensible fatigue, whereas before, by only dressing or undressing, she seemed ready to expire. Her recovery she protested was so compleat, that she was persuaded she could walk two miles with ease and pleasure to herself.

OF a Saturday night I was alarmed by the mournful complaints of Mrs. MARY ORAM, the wife of Farmer ORAM, of the parish of *Ashton*, who told me she believed her sister HANNAH SEGER was raving mad; for that she had torn her cap and hair off her head, and was with difficulty held by three people. She intreated me to go and see her, and if possible relieve her. It happened that I was at this time confined by sickness, and therefore incapable of complying with her request: however I told her, if her sister could be brought to my house (which was not far distant) I would do what I could to relieve her. The young woman had some intervals of reason, and in one of them, it being proposed, she was desirous of being conveyed to me: accordingly she was brought, and was indeed a melancholy figure, with her hair hanging about her ears, and every other external mark of madness. I ordered her to be seated near me; but before I could feel her pulse, she rose with great fury, and it was with some difficulty I saved my books and papers from being sacrificed by her to the flames. She

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was immediately secured and kept down in a chair: the violence of the fit being soon over, I had an opportunity of feeling her pulse; and was soon thoroughly persuaded her disorder was hysterical, tho' in a more violent degree than I had ever seen before in any person. On making the necessary enquiries, I found she had a few days before met with a great disappointment. I immediately proceeded to administer the medicine in a large quantity, and ordered it to be often repeated. The next morning I visited her, and had the pleasure to find she was composed and perfectly sensible, tho' still afflicted with general spasmodic twitches. I ordered her to continue the medicine, which she did, and the Thursday following was so thoroughly recovered, that she walked to her mother's house at the distance of twenty miles.

So extraordinary a recovery may seem strange: however as my veracity stands unimpeached, my own authority I trust will be sufficient to give it credit: but if any doubts remain on those, whom curiosity may
engage

engage in the enquiry, I would refer them to Mrs. ORAM, before-mentioned, whose evidence, I am persuaded, will undeniably ascertain the truth of this narrative.

I WAS induced to publish the case of a person in such obscurity merely from the singularity of it, and in order to confirm my opinion, that insanity of the gloomy and violent kind, often takes its rise from hysterical and hypochondriac causes, and is easily cured by specific and timely applications.

BATH, *October 1, 1777.*

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